

CLAIMS

1. A ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on the upper surface of a floor which floor covering has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed one or more studs which, in use, provide an air gap between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.
- 10 2. A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the floor covering is chemically or mechanically modified to ensure that there is adequate grip between the lower surface of the floor covering and the floor to which it is applied.
- 15 3. A floor covering as defined in Claim 2 wherein the modification is in the form of a softening and/or a roughening of the lower surface.
4. A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is roughened by including a blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.
- 20 5. A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is softened by including additional plasticiser or a chemical blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.
- 25 6. A floor covering as defined in any one of the preceding Claims which includes one or more particulate materials in the upper surface of the floor covering to provide slip resistance.

7. A floor covering as defined in Claim 6 wherein a particulate material is embedded in the upper surface of the flooring material which material is at least partially proud from the upper surface to achieve adequate slip resistance.

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8. A floor covering as defined in any one of the preceding Claims which is preferably a plastics flooring material.

9. A floor covering as defined in Claim 8 which includes a plastics material which is a PVC, a plasticised PVC, a polyurethane, an epoxy resin, an acrylic, a plasticised acrylic, a polyurefin, a polyester, and/or other suitable thermoplastics, preferably the floor covering includes a PVC plastisol.

15 10. A floor covering as defined in Claim 8 or Claim 9 which includes a plastics material preferably in an amount of 100 to 200 php, a blowing agent preferably in an amount from 0 to 2 parts per hundred parts of plastics material (php), filler preferably in an amount of from 0 to 100 php, thermal stabiliser preferably in an amount of from 1 to 3 php, and/or 20 a pigment preferably in an amount of from 1 to 3 php.

11. A floor covering as defined in any one of the previous Claims wherein the floor covering is a heterogenous floor covering.

25 12. A floor covering as defined in any one of the previous Claims which includes a wear layer

13. A floor covering as defined in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the upper surface includes a decorative element such as a pigment 30 and/or a PVC chip.

14. A floor covering as defined in any one of the preceding Claims which includes a support, more preferably a reinforcing support.

15. A method of laying a slip resistant floor covering to decorate and
5 ventilate a concrete floor having an upper surface which method includes
loose laying on the upper surface of the floor a floor covering having a
decorative slip resistant upper surface and a lower surface on which are
formed a plurality of studs and/or other suitable profiles which provide an
air gap between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper
10 surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.

16. A method as defined in Claim 15 wherein the floor covering is as
defined in any one of claims 1 to 14.